



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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June 1, 2008 Crop Production Forecast

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Based on June 1 conditions, Montana winter wheat producers are expecting a yield of 35 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the May 1 forecast, but down 3 bushels from last year's final yield, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. If realized, the total production would be 91.0 million bushels, 9 percent above last year's 83.2 million bushels. The increase in production is a result of an increase in harvested acreage from 2.19 million acres in 2007 to a projected 2.60 million acres in 2008.

For the week ending June 8, Montana's winter wheat crop condition was rated 2% very poor, 12% poor, 49% fair, 30% good, and 7% excellent, significantly below the 2007 rating of 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 44% good, and 34% excellent. Cool temperatures during most of May coupled with the lack of precipitation in the early part of the growing season have hindered winter wheat crop growth and development. Thirty eight percent of the crop is in the boot stage compared to 79 percent last year and the five-year average of 74 percent.

Winter wheat production in the United States is forecast at 1.82 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and up 20 percent from 2007. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from the previous forecast and up 3.1 bushels from last year. Grain area totals 40.2 million acres, unchanged from last month. As of June 1, heading had reached 75 percent in the 18 major States, 9 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Progress was behind normal due primarily to below normal temperatures throughout the growing season. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the growing area.

Forecasted head counts from the objective yield survey in the 6 Hard Red Winter States (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) are below last year's level in Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma, and Texas but above in Kansas and Nebraska. Condition ratings declined during May in Colorado and Nebraska while the other States showed improved conditions. Harvest was just getting started in Oklahoma and Texas.

In the Pacific Northwest States (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington), yields are unchanged from last month in Washington and Oregon but up 1 bushel in Idaho. Forecasted head counts from the objective yield survey in Washington are above last year. Condition ratings declined in Washington but improved in Oregon and Idaho during May. Crop progress was behind normal for all three States at the end of May.

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